

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /092 W

----- 047860

R 120853Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1122

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCMBASSY TRIPOLI

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E T I A L KHARTOUM 0424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SU

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

REF# KHARTOUM 0401 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: DETAILS AND NAMES INVOLVED IN FEB 10 GOVERNMENT
RESHUFFLE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT IN FBIS REPORTS FROM AMMAN
AND LONDON. IN GENERAL, CHANGES MAKE CLEAR
NIMEIRI STILL
CALLS THE SHOTS AND THE POWER OF LEFT-LEANING SSU IDEOLOGUES
HAS BEEN DIMINISHED. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH RESPECT TO LATOUR, AHMED ABDEL HALIM HAS BEEN
RELIEVED OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, IN WHICH
POST HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE FLAK
FROM PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY (NIMEIRI'S DEFENSE OF ASSEMBLY
(REFTEL) RELEVANT). HALIM ALSO SHIFTED FROM POST AS SSU
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONS TO

LESS IMPOSING AND INFLUENTIAL NEW POSITION AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR INFORMATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SECONDLY, BOR AL-DIN SULIMAN'S SSU POST (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL) HAS BEEN ABOLISHED. HIS OVERALL POSITION IS THEREBY SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKENED, ALTHOUGH HE REMAINS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY.

2. THIS DECLINE IN THE FORTUNES OF THE "LEFT" (AS MINSTATE PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS IDRIS DESCRIBED IT TO AMBASSADOR FEB 11) IS CERTAIN TO PLEASE SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS, UPON WHOM GOS BANKING HEAVILY FOR HARD CASH. SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE HAS MADE THIS CLEAR TO US MORE THAN ONCE (KHARTOUM 0391 NOTAL). WHETHER NIMEIRI MOTIVATED BY THIS CONSIDERATION IS HIS SECRET, BUT TIMING OF RESHUFFLE COINCIDES NEATLY WITH CRUCIAL FINAL STAGES OF SAUDI-SUDANESE NEGOTIATIONS ON REPORTED NEW FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. (MINFINANCE BIHEIRY, WHO RETURNED FROM JIDDA FEB 6, REPORTEDLY GOING BACK FEB 12 FOR TEN-DAY STAY.)

3. NEW CABINET CONSTITUTED TO GIVE MORE CONSISTENT SUPPORT TO NIMEIRI'S PREFERENCE (SINCE MID-1971) FOR A MAJOR ROLE FOR PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SUDAN'S DEVELOPMENT. MININDUSTRY SULIMAN SHOULD NOW BE LESS TROUBLESOME ON THIS SCORE, HAVING BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS SSU POWER BASE, AND HIS APPARENT BACKTRACKING ON THE KH CEMENT PROJECT (KHARTOUM 0402 NOTAL) PERHAPS RELATED TO THIS THEN-IMMINENT LOSS OF POLITICAL CLOUT.

4. FORMER MILITARY MEMBERS OF 1969-71 REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) CONTINUE ON THE RISE, WITH KHALID HASSAN ABBAS AND MAMOUN AWAD ABU ZEID GETTING MINISTRIES AND ZEIN AL-ABDEIN MOHAMMED AHMED RETAINING HIS AND RECEIVING A KEY SSU APPOINTMENT AS WELL. TOGETHER WITH FELLOW RCC MEMBER ABUL GASSIM MOAHM IBRAHIM, WHO STAYS ON AS SSU DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND MIN AGRICULTURE, THEY BECOME DOMINANT CLIQUE IN POWER CIRCLES AND BEST INSURANCE AGAINST UNREST WITHIN OR OVERT DISSIDENT ACTION ON PART OF ARMED FORCES.
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5. TALENT AND EXPERIENCE HAS RISEN TO THE TOP IN THE AREAS OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS IN PERSONS OF NEW MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY HAROUN AL-AWAD AND NEW MINSTATE FOR FINANCE BESHIR IBFAHIM OSMAN ISHAG. MINFINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY BIHEIRY HAS ADDED PLANNING TO HIS PORTFOLIO AND NOW HAS THREE MINSTATES ON HIS TEAM, INDICATING NIMEIRI'S RECOGNITION OF NEED

FOR STRENGTH AND CONSISTENCY IN THESE KEY AREAS.

6. OTHER CHANGES SEEM LARGELY COSMETIC, WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF CREATION OF POST OF SSU ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTHERN REGION, TO BE MANNED BY REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER HILARY LOGALI. THIS IS FIRST TIME SOUTH GIVEN SPECIAL RECOGNITION WITHIN SSU STRUCTURE, AND FIRST TIME SOUTHERNER HAS BEEN NAMED TO SENIOR SSU HIERARCHY. COUPLED WITH APPOINTMENT BONA MALWAL RING MADUT AS FIRST FULL-FLEDGED SOUTHERN MINISTER (CULTURE AND INFORMATION) IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND PROMOTION OF SOUTHERNER FRANCIS MADENG DENG TO NEW MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS POSITION, THIS DEVELOPMENT CERTAIN REFLECTS CREDIT ON NIMEIRI IN EYES SOUTHERNERS AND OTHER BLACK AFRICANS. BREWER

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